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Task Force Members,

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) released the results of the 2015 Homeless Count today. This information, together with data from Long Beach, Pasadena, and Glendale, gave us a picture of homelessness across our county.

The total estimated number of homeless people increased by 12% over the last two years, from 39,461 to 44,359. The good news is that number of homeless veterans decreased to 4,362 (6% decrease), while unfortunately the number of chronically homeless increased by 54% to 14,118. While sobering, this news does not come as a complete surprise thanks to our improved data systems. Our data have signaled that the number of people becoming homeless in our communities is significant, as a result of the rising cost of rental housing (estimated at 8% in the last year alone) and 1 in 4 families living in poverty.

I know we all stand by our goal to end veteran homelessness by the end of this year, and we have 7 months of extremely hard work to do to get there. Since we launched Home For Good, our community has housed a total of 12,818 veterans, but we now know that over the last two years on average 10 veterans become homeless each day. We see bright spots in our region, with cities like Pasadena and Long Beach reducing veteran homelessness by over 50% in the last two years. But in order to meet our goal in the next 7 months, we'll have to house veterans at more than twice the rate we've been averaging so far.

We'll discuss this more in depth at next week's Task Force meeting, but please know your commitment and investment in this work is critical – both invaluable informing and guiding us to where we are today, and your commitment to the work moving forward. Next Thursday's Task Force meeting will include a discussion of these numbers, as well as a continued discussion of the Task Force's work around business sector engagement and political will moving forward.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions before then.

Thanks,
Christine

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